

Appendix A

Glossary of Terms and Acronyms

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- Acquisition of the Equivalent: Refers to obtaining ownership or other rights to natural resources or services that are comparable to those injured.
- Aquatic: Having to do with or pertaining to water.
- Baseline: The condition(s) that would have existed at the assessment area if the release of PCBs had not occurred.
- CERCLA: Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980; better known as “Superfund”, establishes a fund to cleanup hazardous waste sites that present hazards to humans and the environment
- Cleanup or Remediation: Actions taken to reduce or eliminate future risks to people and the environment.
- Compensation: Provision for creation or restoration of “equivalent” wetland acres comparable to wetland acres and functions that have been destroyed.
- Conservation easement: A legally binding restriction on allowable uses imposed upon a parcel of land in exchange for a tax break to the landowner. Conservation easements prevent development of a parcel, restricting its use to agriculture, habitat for wildlife, or hiking and other nondestructive forms of recreation.
- Contaminant: An undesirable substance that makes a desired substance impure or unclear; something that causes contamination. For the purposes of this plan, the contaminants are PCBs that can be detrimental to fish and wildlife when released or concentrated in the environment.
- Contamination: The process of making a substance unclear, harmful, or impure by the addition of another substance. See the definition for contaminant.
- Cost-effective: As defined in the Department’s natural resource damage assessment regulations, is achieving an objective with the least expenditure of financial or other assets. Cost-effectiveness generally means that whenever the same or a similar benefit can be obtained in several ways, the least costly means of obtaining that benefit is selected. Cost-effectiveness is not intended to be used as a measure to select between alternatives or actions that provide very different levels of benefits at different costs.
- Criteria: Standards, rules, or tests on which a decision can be based.
- Damage settlement: Dollars awarded to a trustee from responsible parties in compensation for injury to resources held in trust for the public.
- Damages: As used in CERCLA, the monetary value of injury to, destruction of, or loss of natural resources, including the reasonable costs of assessing such injury, destruction or loss resulting from a release or discharge.
- Diversity: A measure of the complexity of an ecosystem, using the number of different species or habitats, and their relative abundance in an area.
- Ecosystem: A biological community together with the physical and chemical environment with which it interacts.
- Enhancement: Any improvement of a desired characteristic, such as wetland structure or function, migratory bird population size, or species diversity.

Environment: The physical, chemical, and biological surroundings of any organism which includes all the factors, forces, or conditions which affect or influence the growth and development or the life of an organism.

EA: Environmental Assessment: A review process which evaluates the environmental risks of minor Federal actions to determine whether an environmental impact statement is necessary.

EIS: Environmental Impact Statement: An analysis required for all major Federal actions by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, which evaluates the environmental risks of alternative actions. Public review of environmental impact statements is required.

Exposure: All or part of a natural resource that is or has been in physical contact with oil or a hazardous substance, or with media containing oil or a hazardous substance.

Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act(CWA)): Signed into law in 1977. Addresses the contamination of the nation's waters. Establishes methods for mitigation, protection and restoration of wetlands.

Food web: The transfer of energy or chemicals from one organism to another, from primary levels such as plants into secondary levels such as plant-eating animals and predatory animals.

Habitat: The natural home or dwelling place of an organism, including its total environment (physical features, vegetation, climate, etc.).

Habitat function: Actions performed by habitat that are useful to or required by organisms for survival. Examples of wetland habitat functions include water purification, nutrient cycling, and vegetative cover for protection and nesting.

Habitat requirements: Specific aspects or functions of habitat that are required by a particular species for survival.

Hazardous substance: Any substance designated in Section 311(b)(2)(A) of the CWA; any element, compound, mixture, solution, or substance designated under Section 102 of CERCLA, any hazardous waste having the characteristics identified under or listed in Section 3001 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act; any toxic pollutant listed under Section 307(a) of the CWA; any hazardous air pollution listed under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act; and any imminently hazardous chemical substance or mixture to which the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency has taken action under Section 7 of the Toxic Substances Control Act.

Impact: The effect of one thing upon another.

Injury: "Injury" as defined in 43 CFR 11.14(v) means a measurable adverse change, either short- or long-term, in the chemical or physical quality of the viability of a natural resource resulting either directly or indirectly from exposure to a discharge of oil or release of a hazardous substance. Encompasses the phrases "injury", "destruction", and "loss".

Liability: Having responsibility, accountability for an action, actions, or the effect of the action(s).

Management plan: A plan that outlines the kind of activities that can take place in an area, to ensure that future use will not be in conflict with the intended purpose of the area. Management plans ensure long-term maintenance and monitoring, and define goals, responsibilities, liability, and priorities for each party involved in management.

Mitigation: Actions taken to avoid, reduce, or compensate for the effects of environmental damage. Among the broad spectrum of possible actions are those that restore, enhance, create, or replace damaged ecosystems.

Monitoring: Short and long-term management and evaluation to insure that restoration goals are met, contaminant levels remain below danger levels, trust resources are not compromised and unexpected adverse impacts are eliminated.

NCP: National Contingency Plan. The National Oil and Hazardous Substances Contingency Plan and revisions promulgated by EPA, pursuant to Section 105 of CERCLA and codified in 40 CFR Part 300.

NEPA: National Environmental Policy Act. A comprehensive Federal environmental law declaring that the Federal government has responsibility for restoring and maintaining environmental quality. NEPA requires all Federal agencies to prepare an environmental impact statement for any project, Federal action, or permitted action which has the potential to significantly affect environmental quality. NEPA was enacted to encourage harmony between humans and their environment.

NRDA: Natural Resource Damage Assessment. The process of collecting, compiling, and analyzing information, statistics, or data through prescribed methodologies to determine damages for injuries to natural resources.

Native species: Plant or animal species occurring in the restoration area before settlement by Europeans.

Natural Resources: Land, fish, wildlife, biota, air, water, ground water, drinking water supplies, and other such resources belonging to, managed by, held in trust by, appertaining to, or otherwise controlled by the United States, any State or local government, or any foreign government, or any Indian tribe.

Rehabilitation: Actions undertaken to return an injured resource to its baseline condition, as measured in terms of the injured resource's physical, chemical, or biological properties or the services it previously provided.

Release: The spilling, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, emptying, discharging, injecting, escaping, leaching, dumping, or disposing into the environment, including the abandonment or discarding of barrels, containers, and other closed receptacle containing any hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.

Replacement: The substitution of natural resources or services for those injured, such as enhancing habitats away from the site of impact to provide comparable services or values in terms of fish and wildlife production.

Restoration or Rehabilitation: Actions to be taken to return an injured resource to its baseline condition.

Restoration alternatives: The different levels considered for restoring an ecosystem. CERCLA requires the evaluation of a range of alternatives, from "no action" to intensive restoration.

Restoration plan: A plan outlining different restoration alternatives that can be used to accomplish natural resource restoration. CERCLA requires that a restoration plan be developed before damage settlement funds can be expended.

Riparian: The border or banks of a stream. Although this term is sometimes used interchangeably with floodplain, the riparian zone is generally regarded as relatively

narrow compared to a floodplain. The duration of flooding is generally much shorter, and the timing less predictable, in a riparian zone than in a river floodplain.

Riverine: Relating to a river. The riparian zone or floodplain area influenced by a river.

Services: The physical and biological functions performed by the resource including human uses of those functions.

Threatened or endangered species: Species protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

Trust resources: Species and their supporting ecosystems protected under Federal, State, or Tribal jurisdiction on behalf of the public.

Trustees or Co-trustees: Those Federal, State or Tribal entities responsible for natural resources which act on behalf of the public to protect and restore resources under CERCLA.

Watershed: The total land area contributing surface or ground water to a lake, river, or drainage basin.

Wetlands: Term for a broad group of wet habitats. Wetlands are lands transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water. Wetlands include features that are permanently wet, or intermittently water-covered, such as swamps, marshes, bogs, muskegs, potholes, swales, glades, and overflow land of river valleys.